

Women and Children Trafficking: Challenges and Issues in the Indian Context

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Abstract: *The status of women and children differs significantly among societies because of variations in cultural practices, belief systems, economic frameworks, and historical backgrounds. Even with the progress of civilization and modernization, women still encounter discrimination, marginalization, and exploitation in various regions globally. Many societies, such as India, largely uphold patriarchy, with men holding dominant roles in social, political, and economic areas, while women are frequently assigned lesser roles. In various societies, women are viewed as sources of pleasure, household workers, or financial assets, lacking independence and the ability to make choices. While women are often revered in religious writings and cultural stories, in practice they often face violence, mistreatment, neglect, and degradation. In the same way, children continue to be one of the most at-risk groups in society. Their fundamental rights, dignity, and welfare are frequently overlooked, rendering them vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. The trafficking of women and children represents a serious breach of human rights and reveals entrenched disparities, poverty, gender discrimination, and fragile institutional systems. It not only ruins personal lives but also weakens societal stability and ethical principles*

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